Pacts with other countries for regulating flow of labour

685. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has entered into any pacts for regulating the flow of labour force into Gulf and other countries where there is no need for Indian Labour; and

(b) whether any steps are being taken to apprenhend and prosecute unauthorised agents who are exploiting unemployed youths by extracting huge sums from them with false promises of providing them lucrative jobs abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Unauthorised Agents can not recruit Indian workers for overseas employment. Violation of this provision is a cognizable offence under the Emigration Act, 1983. Whenever, any complaint is received, the same is referred to the Police authorities. State Governments have been asked to investigate such crimes expeditiously.

Provident Fund Linked Housing Schemes

686. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the growing housing needs of industrial workers, Government have drawn up any Provident Fund linked housing plans for their benefit ; and

(b) if so, what are the details of such schemes and how many industrial workers will be covered by the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR SHRI P A. SANGMA) : (a) and b) Yes, Sir. The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation will be getting the houses constructed for those provident fund subscribers who have sufficient provident fund accumulations at their credit and who are willing to have houses in the areas where houses can be arranged through the agencies like Delhi Development Authority, State Housing Boards, etc. The proposals have accordingly been finalised for construction of 1527 houses as per details given below :

(a) Haryana—200 houses at Faridabad are almost at completion stage.

(b) Maharshtra—1200 houses in Bombay are expected to be ready soon.

(c) Rajasthan—27 houses at Alwar are expected to be ready soon.

(d) Uttar Pradesh—100 houses in Ghaziabad. The construction work is expected to be taken up soon.

The other States have also been requested to work out special scheme for provident fund subscribers or to atleast keep apart a certain percentage of houses in the existing schemes of their Housing Boards, for allotment to the provident fund subscribers.

Foodgrains stored in the FCI Godowns in Punjab

687. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the total stock of accumulated foodgrains lying presently in Punjab ;

(b) what is the quantity of foodgrains stored in the godowns of the Food Corporation of India and what is the quantity lying in open for over a year; and

(c) what is the quantity of foodgrains damaged during the